

# Fiscal Note

*Fiscal Services Division*



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**SF 2322** – Toledo Juvenile Home (LSB 5530SV)

Analyst: Estelle Montgomery (Phone: 515-281-6764) ([estelle.montgomery@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:estelle.montgomery@legis.iowa.gov))

Fiscal Note Version – New

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## **Description**

**Senate File 2322** establishes a State training school for adjudicated delinquent female children. The children admitted to this State training school must be at least 12 years of age, adjudicated, and the court would consider placement to be in the best interest of the child.

**Training Schools.** This Bill states that the State training school must be established at a State-owned facility and operational upon enactment of this Bill. This State training school will serve female juvenile delinquents at the same level of service provided by the State training school for male juveniles at the Eldora State Training School for Boys, deliver gender-responsive services, and provide appropriate safeguards to ensure children in placements are safe and have their needs met. This Bill amends sections of the Iowa Code pertaining to the State training school for adjudicated delinquent males to apply new responsibilities specified for the facility for females to the facility for males. In addition, the DHS administrator and State training school superintendents must provide uninterrupted school programs, facilities, services, and staff training in order to apply evidence-based practices and other contemporary approaches for high quality. These entities are required to report efforts and recommendations to comply with this requirement in the annual budget and financial reports submitted to the Governor and General Assembly. This Bill also requires the State training schools to provide assessment and consultation services to address the needs of children with challenging behavior upon request of public and private providers of child welfare services.

**Written Plans.** This Bill requires children placed in the State training school to receive an examination and a written plan for services. There must also be a written plan for follow-up services when the child becomes age 18 years old that is developed by the child's attorney and juvenile court services. This Bill also obligates children not living with a parent to be visited at least quarterly by their attorney and/or guardian. The DHS will not be allowed to transfer children if the written plan proposal does not meet placement criteria.

**Education.** This Bill requires a guarantee that all education and training services provided by the State training school meet State and federal requirements for the long term success of children. The education program will not be provided by the DHS. Education will be provided through Area Education Agencies (AEA) and occur throughout the calendar year. This applies to the male and female State training schools, but also children living in placements at State mental health institutes. The AEAs are allowed to provide education through several options including through the child's residing school district. The cost for education will be provided through the State aid school formula. In addition, the State training school must allow a female child to stay at the facility when the age of 18 years old is reached for the completion of high school, if that is part of the education plans. The DHS is authorized to place a child admitted to the State training school into foster care and to continue the placement of the child into adulthood for educational purposes. In addition, this Bill allows children over the age of 17 to be admitted to the State training school.

**Extending eligibility for adult living programs.** This Bill tasks the DHS with providing an effective system for supporting children when they become adults in order to prevent any involvement with the adult criminal justice system. This includes extending eligibility for adult living programs post-state training school placement through expansion to include children that reach 18 years of age while in the State training school, a shelter care home, or juvenile detention home regardless of whether federal participation is provided. Currently, these program services are only available to children that reach 18 years of age while receiving foster care services.

**Accreditation.** This Bill requires the DHS to acquire accreditation as a secure juvenile facility from the American Correction Association, meet the DHS standards for juvenile homes, and meet standards for residential services that are currently applied for children paid by the DHS Medicaid Program contract for male and female State training homes. The Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) will determine compliance.

### **Background**

In January 2014, there ceased to be a State training school for female children in the State due to the closure of the Toledo State Training School for Girls and Iowa Juvenile Home.

### **Assumptions**

**Location:** This Bill requires the State training school for female children to be State-owned and operation expedited upon enactment. The school will be operational by July 2014. A State training school location was recently vacated in January 2014 and remains unoccupied. This facility will be used for comparisons and estimated availability within operations time constraints. The bed capacity of this vacant facility preclosure was 57 beds and the FY 2015 salary estimate was \$5,965,000 for 117.7 FTEs.

**Level of service provided:** This Bill requires that same level of services at Eldora State Training School for Boys be provided to the State training school for female children. The FY 2013 average daily per diem rate for the Eldora State Training School for Boys is \$253.

**Extending eligibility for adult living programs:** This Bill requires extending eligibility for adult living programs to female children post-state training school. For previous Bill versions, the DHS estimated the annual cost to be \$17,430 per youth and estimated an additional 61 youth per year receiving the services.

**Education:** This Bill requires AEAs to provide education year-round to training school children and children in State mental health placements. For previous Bill versions, the Department of Education estimated an annual cost of \$864,000.

**Accreditation:** This Bill requires American Correction Association accreditation. The three-year membership cost for Eldora State Training School for Boys in 2012 was \$45,000. The membership cost did not include improvements to the facility to achieve accreditation. Previous fiscal year Toledo State Training School for Girls and Iowa Juvenile Home cottage renovations cost \$250,000 each. There are 13 buildings on the campus. Only small portions have been renovated in recent years.

**Unknowns pending further information from DHS:**

- Providing assessment services to partnered public and private groups.
- Additional census increases due to allowing admittance for female children age 12 to 18 years old and allowing female children to stay at the state training school past 18 years old for education completion.
- Education expenses for youth in State mental health facilities.
- Standard quality upgrades.
- Various other unknown variables.

**Fiscal Impact**

[Senate File 2322](#) is estimated to result in additional cost to the General Fund of \$14.4 million in FY 2015 and \$13.2 million in FY 2016. This includes:

Action	FY 2015	FY 2016
Level of service standard	\$ 5,264,000	\$ 5,270,000
Operations	5,965,000	5,965,000
Education	864,000	864,000
Accreditation fees and upgrades	1,200,000	0
Extending eligibility for adult living program	1,063,230	1,063,230
Total	<u>\$ 14,356,230</u>	<u>\$ 13,162,230</u>

The fiscal impact for assessment services, potential census increases, education expenses, quality upgrades, and other unknown variables cannot be estimated at this time, but could be significant.

A more comprehensive fiscal impact cannot be estimated until the Department of Human Services submits requested information to the LSA. This fiscal note will be updated once the information is received and analyzed.

**Sources**

Department of Human Services  
Department of Education

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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